

Human Events

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Soft at the Top: A measure not only of the Administration's "soft on communism" stance, but also of its administrative "softheadedness" appears in an incident being discussed in lively terms in the Senate chambers. It is this, as relayed to HUMAN EVENTS from prominent Senatorial sources.

Recently, a band of Senators—both Democrats and Republicans, including several Democratic committee chairmen—sent up to President Kennedy a recommendation for appointment to the post of head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The message was carried to Kennedy by a Democratic Senator who was one of the President's closest aides during his victorious campaign for office last fall.

The recommendation was that the successor to present CIA Director Allen W. Dulles (who is retiring) should be Lieutenant General Arthur G. Trudeau, at present Chief of Research and Development of the US Army. Trudeau was head of Military Intelligence (G-2) from 1953 to 1955.

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Trudeau has been one of the more outspoken military men in active service. His speeches have been frequently censored by the Pentagon, particularly the passages denouncing communism. Kennedy, when this name was given him, said he did not know Trudeau but would investigate and think it over. A few days later, the President informed the Democratic Senator that he could not name Trudeau because the latter was a "military man." Expressing astonishment, the Senator replied that the first head of Central Intelligence was Admiral Sidney W. Souers. Subsequent heads were General Hoyt S. Vandenberg (in active service), Rear Admiral R. H. Hilsenkoetter, General Walter Bedell Smith and Dulles.

The Democratic Senator went on to point out that the only civilian head of CIA has been Dulles, who is now blamed for the confusion and bloopers attributed to that much-attacked agency. Kennedy replied that this is true, but the "atmosphere in the country is opposed to entrusting such positions to senior military officers." In view of the continued great popularity of Eisenhower throughout the

country, the Senators involved remain dumbfounded by the Presidential statement.

Other Senators read into the President's attitude a reflection of the anti-military posture of Kennedy's "White House apostles"—such as Walt W. Rostow, Jerome B. Wiesner, et al, not to mention the whole White House crusade against Major General Edwin A. Walker, now being smeared by a curious and unprecedented press campaign apparently emanating from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's office. (See "Tower Asks Explanation" below.)

Michigan Mauls Reuther: Michigan voters last week lambasted Walter P. Reuther's Democratic-United Auto Workers political empire in a vote which saw the spirited re-emergence of the Wolverine State's GOP. The Republicans won a 99-45 victory in the statewide election of delegates to the state's constitutional convention October 3. Democrats lost in seven heavily-UAW Detroit districts.

To Washington, this outcome constitutes not only a rebuke to Reuther's power, but also reflects grass-roots opposition to the Labor Boss domination of the Kennedy regime. Rank-and-file auto workers discontented with Reuther may have been an additional element in the vote. It is noted that the voting took place while UAW members were tied in the General Motors strike.

The Michigan convention will consider changes in the state constitution, unaltered since 1908. The Reutherites wanted to win a big majority of delegates (one for each of the 144 seats in the State Legislature) in order to create a one-house legislature based on population alone—rather than the present setup of two houses, based both on population and area. This would ensure the balance of power in Detroit. Reuther's stronghold, Labor wanted to put in elaborate welfare and pro-union statutes.

A leading Michigan GOP'er told HUMAN EVENTS: "As witnessed by the vote, even many of the union members were wary of this obvious power grab on the part of the UAW. We are happy because we Michigan Republicans have stopped feuding and started working, and working hard. We went to great pains to find the most competent and personable candidates available. We labored hard in Democratic areas as well as Republican. The result is the first Republican sweep in this state since 1946. We had been losing practically everything in recent years."

Appeasement a la Mode? A big blow against the dangerous appeasement tendencies in the Kennedy Administration was struck last week by former